THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 2, 1801.

ANECDOTES *of the* CITY *of* PETERSBURG.

[From Storch's "Picture of Peterſburg."]

ACCORDING to the calculation of the academician Krafft, St. Peterſburg, on an average of ten years, has annually 97 bright days, 104 of rain, 72 of ſnow, and 93 unſettled. There are every year from twelve to ſixty-ſeven ſtorms, which ſometimes, when they proceed from the weſt, occaſion inundations. From an experience of more than ſixty years, the ice of the Neva (the Thames of Peterſburg) never breaks up before the 25th of March, and never later than the 27th of April: the earlieſt time of its freezing is the 20th of October, and the lateſt the 1ſt of December. Since the year 1741, the greateſt degree of heat has been 27, and the greateſt degree of cold 33, by Reaumur's thermometer.

We ſee from this ſurvey, how few days in the year can be enjoyed out of doors in theſe climates, and how limited are the pleaſures of our ſummers. The winter is our beſt ſeaſon, and poſſeſſes great advantages over his wet and foggy brethren in more ſouthern countries. An equal permanent cold ſtrengthens and recruits the body. The excellent ſledge roads render travelling commodious and agreeable: a winter journey in a moderate froſt on moonlight nights is an enjoyment only to be known in theſe climes. The Ruſſians, accuſtomed to hardſhips, ſeem to revive at the entrance of winter; and even foreigners are here more inſenſible to cold than in their native country. However, it muſt be confeſſed, that none know better how to defend themſelves againſt its effects than the people here. On the approach of winter the double windows are put up in all the houſes, having the joints and interſtices caulked and neatly

paſted with the border of the paper with which the room is hung. This precaution not only protects againſt cold and wind, but ſecures a free proſpect even in depth of winter, as the panes of glaſs are thus never incruſted with ice. The outer doors and frequently the floors under the carpets are covered with felt. Our ſtoves, which from their ſize and conſtruction, conſume indeed a great quantity of wood, produce a temperature in the moſt ſpacious apartments and public halls which annihilates all thoughts of winter.

On leaving the room we arm ourſelves ſtill more ſeriouſly againſt the ſeverity of the cold. Caps, furs, boots lined with flannel, and a muff, make up the winter dreſs. It is diverting to ſee the coloſſal caſes in the ante-chamber, out of which in a few minutes the moſt elegant beaux are unfolded. The common Ruſſian cares only about warm wrappers for his legs and feet. Provided with a plain ſheep-ſkin *ſhube*, the drivers and itinerant tradeſmen frequent the ſtreets all day, with their bare necks and frozen beards. In a froſt of five and twenty degrees, it is common to ſee women ſtanding for hours together rincing their linen through holes in the ice of the canals.

The winter increaſes the neceſſaries of life, and they are multiplied by luxury. To theſe belong the winter clothing, fuel, and candles. That people here run into great expences in the article of furs may be well imagined; and the faſhion varies ſo often, that a man muſt be in more than moderate circumſtances to be able to follow it. The conſumption of wood is enormous. In the kitchens, bagnios, and ſervants' rooms, which are heated like bagnios, there is an incredible waſte of this prime neceſſary of life in our climates. Upon a moderate computation here are annually conſumed upward of two hundred thouſand fathoms (a fathom is ſeven feet), amounting in ſpecie to about half a million of rubles.* This formidable conſumption, and the riſing price of wood, are highly deſerving of patriotic attention. The expence in tallow and wax candles is proportionately as large. Throughout the long winter we live in an almoſt everlaſting night, as our ſhorteſt day is only five hours and a half. In houſes conſtructed on a faſhionable ſtyle, the wax candles, as in England, are lighted long before dinner.

The ſpring is ſo ſhort, that it ſcarcely need be reckoned among the ſeaſons. March and April are generally pleaſant months on account of the number of bright days in them, but the air is ſtill keen, and the Neva frequently ſtill covered with ice. In May the ſcene ſuddenly changes: the winter dreſs entirely vaniſhes, but cold northerly winds keep off the balmy ſpring. We are now, by a ſudden tranſition, thrown at once into ſummer;

* A ruble is 4s. 6d.

mer; the exiſtence whereof is likewiſe of ſhort duration: ſcarcely come on, ſcarcely enjoyed, ere it flits away,

" Et mox bruma recurrit iners."

Short, however, as our ſummer is, it is not without its pleaſures: and perhaps it is here the more ſatisfactorily enjoyed for the very reaſon of its being ſo ſhort. On meeting the firſt ſmiles of the returning ſun, all hie to the adjacent villas, where the genial ſeaſon glides away too ſoon in hoſpitality and ſocial amuſements. Among the peculiar charms of the ſummer here, are to be reckoned the bright and generally warm nights. The faint rays of the ſcarcely ſetting ſun tinge the horizon with a ruddy hue, and beautify the ſurrounding objects; the noiſy buſtle of the ſtreets is departed, though not into a death-like ſilence, but converted into that idle occupation, which is even more voluptuous than repoſe: walking parties are met every where, frequently attended by muſic: on the ſmooth ſurface of the Neva, and on all the canals, boats are gliding, from which reſounds the ſimple melody of the popular ballads, as ſung by the watermen—beguiled by the novelty and delightfulneſs of the ſcene, and in the expectation of the coming night, by an agreeable ſurpriſe we find ourſelves cheated of our ſleep, when the firſt beams of the ſun are gilding the tops of the houſes. I have never yet known a ſingle foreigner who was inſenſible to the firſt enjoyment of theſe ſummer nights.

But ah! to what ſcenes do theſe voluptuous moments lead! to the ſhort ſummer ſucceeds an autumn, which by its numberleſs unpleaſant concomitants effaces all remembrance of its few fine days. About this ſeaſon of the year Peterſburg becomes one of the moſt hideous corners of the earth. The horizon for ſeveral weeks is overſpread with dark heavy clouds, impervious to the ſolar rays, reducing the already ſhortened days to a mere diſmal twilight: while the inceſſant rains, in ſpite of the newly conſtructed ſewers, render the ſtreets ſo dirty, that it is impoſſible for well-dreſſed perſons to walk there comfortably; and, to complete the picture of an autumnal evening, ſtorms and tempeſts frequently come on.

The Peterſburgers are on the whole (as far as ſo general a characteriſtic can be true) a large, compact, ſtrong, luſty caſt of people. The influence of climate on the form and organization, which, as accurate obſervers have already remarked, appears to be the caſe throughout the north, is here likewiſe viſible, without pretending to the gift of phyſiognomical divination. However beautiful the moulds may be in which the human figures here are caſt, they are nevertheleſs deficient in that ſharp determinate contour, which plaſtic nature ſeems to draw with ſo firm a hand beneath a milder and more genial ſky. Even the nobleſt

ground-lines but faintly riſe from the luxuriant maſſes of fleſh, in the elaſtic tumidity whereof the finer ſketches and the gentle play of the muſcles are overpowered and loſt. If thoſe advantages could compenſate for theſe defects, they are compenſated: for finer fleſh, more beautiful ſkin, and more charming complexion, no where can perhaps be ſeen. The general taſte, which alſo here, as every where elſe, derives the laws of the beautiful from the models of elegant nature, ſeems to inſiſt on theſe properties as eſſential requiſites to beauty, and it is probable that the moſt perfect Grecian figure would not be admired in our circles, if unfortunately without ruddy cheeks, and would not abſolutely preſume, on account of certain advantages, to ſet up a rivalſhip with the Hebes of antiquity. This taſte is ſo fixed and ſo general, that in the Ruſſian language the ideas of red, beautiful, and paint, have only one term by which they are expreſſed: and it is therefore highly pardonable if our ladies here, both of high and low condition, endeavoured to heighten the charms of nature where ſhe has acted parſimoniouſly toward them in the diſtribution of this preſent. In all great cities that I know, paint is in uſe among the ladies of faſhion, but here it is carried further, as every peaſant's wife and daughter paints her cheeks as well as the counteſs, not for the ſake of being in the faſhion, but in order to be handſome. What ladies can lay on more paint than the wives of the Ruſſian merchants, as they waddle along under the burden of their pampered, ſleek, and ſhining collops of fat, bedizened with all the magnificence that pearls and lace can beſtow!

The men are not only on the whole more handſome than the women, but the former approaches nearer to the abſtract idea of the fineſt human ſhape. Among the officers of the guards, and more frequently among the country folks that came hither from the provinces, are ſeen many buſts that might without diſparagement be put in competition with the Antinous. In Germany, where the general judgement concerning perſonal beauty is not very different from that which here prevails, we may often be witneſs to the approbation which the ladies beſtow on the travelling Ruſſians in this reſpect. They commonly, however, ſoon loſe the beautiful outline here, ſince the men as well as the women, are, from various cauſes, much inclined to grow fat.

(To be continued.)

SHORT ACCOUNT *of* GENERAL HUTCHINSON.

THIS General, under whoſe conduct the campaign in Egypt, has terminated in a manner ſo honourable to the character of the Britiſh arms, is the ſon of the Right Hon. John Hely Hutchinſon, late Provoſt of Trinity College, Dublin—a man equally

equally diſtinguiſhed by his talents, his ambition, and the high offices he held in the adminiſtration of Ireland.

Being a younger brother of a numerous family, he ſeemed early deſtined to be the author of his own fortune, and no exertion was ſpared to bring him forward into public life with every advantage. He received the elements of his claſſical education at Eton School, and after remaining there the uſual number of years, he returned to the Univerſity of Dublin for the completion of his ſtudies.

At an early period he diſcovered a partiality for a military life, and in his 19th year he was appointed an officer in the 18th regiment of dragoons. He afterwards ſerved in different regiments of foot, firſt in the 67th, and then in the 77th Highlanders. No pains were ſpared to qualify him for command, and for this purpoſe he was ſent to ſtudy tactics at the military academy of Straſburgh, under the beſt French maſters.

Soon after the commencement of the French revolution he paſſed over to the continent, got himſelf introduced to the French commander on the frontiers, and had then an opportunity of witneſſing all the manœuvres of his camp. He afterwards viſited the camp of the Duke of Brunſwick, and ſeemed reſolved to court every occaſion of increaſing his knowledge of the military art, and of perfecting himſelf in the ſkill neceſſary for a great general. While he was thus cultivating his profeſſional ſtudies, he was not inattentive to the ſtate of politics in Ireland. On the death of his father he was elected Member for Cork on the independent intereſt; and, though in general a ſupporter of miniſterial meaſures, he was ever a decided friend to Catholic emancipation. When that queſtion was fully debated in 1789, a ſpeech he delivered on the occaſion is very creditable to his talents, and was regarded as a very promiſing ſpecimen of eloquence. On the queſtion of union he joined miniſtry, though he was very far from approving all the acts to which they reſorted for accompliſhing that meaſure. During the rebellion in Ireland, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf as an able, active, and humane officer. In the whole of his conduct throughout that unfortunate period, he gave proofs of military talents which were calculated to be of the moſt eſſential ſervice to his country on whatever field he ſhould be called upon to exert them.

In the ſelection of officers to ſerve in the expedition to Egypt, it is generally underſtood that the opinion of the ever to be lamented Sir Ralph Abercromby was principally conſulted; and by his recommendation, it is believed, that General Hutchinſon was appointed to the rank which he held in the expedition. How well he has juſtified the choice his actions beſt can ſhew. And while he ſo generouſly laviſhes praiſes on the brave companions of his ſervices, and with the modeſty, which gives new luſtre to heroiſm, ſeeks to conceal his own merit, he cannot fail

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to receive from his country that tribute of gratitude ſo juſtly due to his conduct as a general and a ſoldier.

DESCRIPTION *of the* ISLAND *of* CEYLON.

THE iſland of Ceylon, which is ſtated to have been ceded to us by the preſent treaty of peace, is ſituated in the Indian Ocean, and is 250 miles in length, and 125 in breadth. In general the air is very good; and though the country is full of mountains, there are fertile vallies: in ſome places the mountains are high and barren, being nothing but dreadful rocks without water. It is particularly remarkable for its plenty of cinnamon, and in ſome places there are rich mines, whence are got rubies, ſapphires, topazes, and other ſtones of leſs value.

In the kingdom of Candia is plenty of cardamoms, very large. The pepper here is ſo good, that it ſells dearer than that of other places. Here is plenty of wood for all ſorts of uſes, and ſome proper for dying red. It abounds in corn, buffaloes, goats, hogs, deer, hares, dogs, jackalls, monkies, tigers, and bears:—they have a quadruped no bigger than a hare, which perfectly reſembles a deer. Beſides the buffalo, there is another of the beeve kind, which hath a high back, and four white feet; but this is a great rarity. Their elephants are like thoſe in other places, and they have ſome that are ſpotted, but very ſcarce. They have great variety of birds, ſome of which are not to be met with in other places. They have very dangerous ſerpents and ants, which do a great deal of miſchief.

The moſt remarkable tree in this iſland is the tallipot, one of whoſe leaves will cover ten men, and keep them from the rain: they are very light, and travellers carry them from place to place, and uſe them inſtead of tents.

The natives are the Bedas, a hardy race, on the north; and on the ſouth the Cinglaſſes, a people more polite, and equally inoffenſive, but extremely ſuperſtitious; they implore the interpoſition of their ſaints and heroes, whom they ſuppoſe to be miniſtering ſpirits of the Great Creator. They have, beſides, various idols of monſtrous forms. They are divided into tribes like the Hindoos, and the language, peculiar to themſelves, is ſaid to be copious, ſmooth, elegant, and polite.

In their temples are images, well executed, though their figures are monſtrous: ſome are of ſilver, copper, &c. Their houſes are ſmall and low, with walls made of hurdles, ſmoothly covered with clay, and the roofs thatched. They have no chimnies, and their furniture is only a few earthen veſſels, with two copper baſons, and two or three ſtools; none but the king being allowed to ſit in a chair. Their food is generally rice and ſalt, and their common drink is water, which they pour into their

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Oliver Owl's Narrative of a Variety of Attempts to eſcape from troubleſome Viſiters.

To JOB MONK, Eſq. Monkhall, Cornwall.

DEAR SIR,

FROM peruſing your "complaint of the viſited againſt the viſiters," which lately appeared [vide page 246 of our preſent volume] in the Weekly Entertainer, I not only received conſolation in conſidering that I was not the only one ordained to be tormented by an inundation of viſiters, but alſo from an account of the intended act againſt "ſocial felony," an act that will alleviate the cares of thouſands, and immortalize the name of its author. My ſituation is nearly as deplorable, though not altogether ſimilar to your's. I reſide in a very populous town, and have, I am happy to ſay, a wife of the ſame diſpoſition as Mrs. Monk; completely domeſtic, and particularly averſe to the buſtle neceſſarily occaſioned by a multiplicity of viſiters; But, alas! we are totally deprived of each other's company and converſation from morning 'till night, except in a confuſed crowd of ſtrangers, who are pleaſed to term themſelves "our friends;" an appellation, by the bye, they very improperly aſſume.

This, above all other conſiderations, affords me more grief than you may very likely be aware of. We married for love, which I may with truth affirm has been daily encreaſing. We prefer our own company to that of all others, and our own converſation to the ſoft ſpeeches of the flatterer, or the unbounded abuſe of the malignant; but ah! how ſeldom do we enjoy a fleeting hour in the manner we could deſire! The ſtate of our finances renders us incapable of being much diſturbed by "night-cap viſiters;" indeed we have but one ſpare bed, which we take care to be ſtripped of all its furniture when there appears the leaſt danger of this kind. Our viſiters are moſtly of the ephemeral tribe, and come under the definition of "loungers" or "idlers," who frequently detain us from our private concerns from one end of the day to the other; I hope, therefore, my dear Mr. Monk, that your fellow feeling will ſo far take pity on our ſituation as to inſert a particular clauſe in your intended act againſt the "robbers of our time," as well as "the devourers of our ſubſtance." To give you, however, ſome idea of our ſorrows, I will briefly relate the events of a day, which are, I am ſorry to ſay, almoſt the events of every day.

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The firſt ſound that reached our ears in the morning was a ſolitary knock at the door, a ſound as natural as the return of day. On looking out of window (completely naked) I beheld a beggar and three children; the intention of this viſit was evident, ſo I took a ſixpence from my purſe, and threw it to her with a ſecret pleaſure, for ſhe appeared to be a real object of diſtreſs. To my great grief, however, ſhe begged me to liſten a few minutes to her tale; a requeſt which the tender feelings of my heart, and the hope of giving her ſome conſolation, prevented me from refuſing. But alas! it was in vain to endeavour to cut ſhort the melancholy catalogue of her ſorrows; ſo that I was detained nearly an hour in the ſtate I have mentioned, when ſtill deſpairing ever to hear the end of her tale, and having caught a moſt terrible cold, I ſhut down the window in a pet, and proceeded to dreſs myſelf.

Before breakfaſt was half over, we were again ſaluted with a violent knocking; I deſired the ſervant to ſay we were particularly engaged, but would be happy in their company in the courſe of the morning. But, to our great mortification, the lady told the ſervant that ſhe would walk in, and wait 'till we were at leiſure, as ſhe was fatigued with her early excurſion. The ſervant, whoſe ſtupidity is unequalled, immediately conducted her to the room where we ſat at breakfaſt. Hearing, however, her approach, and not knowing what we did, we puſhed ourſelves, from the inſtinct of ſelf-preſervation, into a ſmall cloſet in the ſame room, the door of which we had no ſooner ſhut than we perceived our folly; but it was too late; Mrs. Prate-apace had already entered the breakfaſt-room, and was ſeated. Think, for a moment, on our ſituation; Mrs. Owl, myſelf, and a child, about two years old, ſtuffed into a little dark cloſet, and afraid almoſt to breathe leſt the ſtranger ſhould diſcover us. Very unluckily Mrs. Owl was tormented with a bad cough; and perceiving her to be ſtraining to avoid one, I wiſhed to pinch her arm to remind her more deeply of our ſituation; but, ſad to tell, I was unfortunate enough to miſtake the child's leg for my wife's arm. The young brat gave a moſt terrible ſquawl, which all our efforts could not prevent. The lady, aſtoniſhed at the ſound, immediately opened the door (for ſhe thought it was a cupboard), when, to her great ſurpriſe, and our greater confuſion, our dark deeds were brought to light. Gueſs, if you can, how ſilly we appeared. I attempted to make a thouſand apologies, but, from the fright received, was incapable of uttering any thing but a confuſed jumble of words without the leaſt meaning; a bluſh of anger ſuffuſed her cheeks, and, after a few exclamations of ſurpriſe and abuſe, ſhe fled out of doors in a fury, leaving us ſtaring at one another as if thunderſtruck.

Thus, my dear Sir, were we ſerved in our firſt attempt to eſcape a morning viſit. We reſumed our ſeats, but, alas! only

to rife again, for a louder knock than ever put us into a ſtate of greater confuſion than before. I immediately fled out at the back door into the court, followed by Mrs. Owl, and the child in her arms; but, to verify the old proverb, that one misfortune ſeldom comes alone, in the hurry of flight I fell over a pail of ditty water, and Mrs. Owl, unable to ſtop herſelf, came tumbling, child and all, head over heels upon her unfortunate huſband. A trio of ſqualling immediately enſued; when, to our ſecond mortification, Mrs. Clacker, who had been the cauſe of our diſaſter, came to aſſiſt us in riſing from our fall. We were all moſt terribly bruiſed, the pains of which are not yet out of memory.

Perceiving it, therefore, to be fruitleſs to attempt any more eſcapes of this kind, we returned to our parlour, with a reſolution to receive all viſiters of every denomination. We did not, however, remain long in dubious ſuſpenſe as to our impending fate; for in leſs than five minutes, Miſs Joan Gapum gave us a call, merely to inform us that her father and mother, and the reſt of the family, were on the road to town to drink tea with us, and that ſhe alſo ſhould do herſelf the pleaſure of accompanying them. The Gapum family belong to a ſmall village, diſtant only two or three miles from this place, where, very unluckily, my wife happened to go for the benefit of her health; ſince which time we have been daily tormented with all the farmers' families in the pariſh; ſhould my dear wife, however, again need a change of air, I will ſend her fifty miles diſtance rather than run the hazard of forming any new acquaintances within a day's journey of us. Scarcely had Miſs Joan left the door when there arrived a ſervant, with an immenſe bundle of cloaths on his back, ſaying that Mrs. Spintext would ſup and ſleep with us that night. The man had but half delivered his ſhort meſſage, when Madam Squatbottom made her appearance, decked with all the gaiety of a girl of ſixteen. She ſat two hours, all of which time the room re-echoed with the bad characters of her neighbours. The moment ſhe left us we ſat down to dinner, at a very early hour, that we might have time to prepare for our afternoon viſiters. But determinations in our ſituation are better called hopes, and thoſe hopes were ſoon overturned by another ſignal of a morning call. Being aſhamed to be found at dinner at ſo early an hour we liſtened to the ſuggeſtions of pride, and put the pie with all poſſible expedition under the table, as the cloth was long enough to conceal it. Miſs Priſcilla Prim ſoon entered. After the uſual compliments we invited her to take a glaſs of wine with us; ſhe accepted the offer, and drew her chair cloſe to the table: but wiſhing to ſtretch not one of the ſhorteſt pair of legs in the world, ſhe put her both feet into the unfortunate pie. The heat and crack of the diſh cauſed an immediate alteration in her features. She ſhrieked, and ſprung ſuddenly backwards, pulling the table cloth, wine-glaſſes, decanters, and

every thing after her, when the fragments of the ſcattered pie came to public view. Perceiving our evident confuſion, ſhe ſarcaſtically wiſhed us a good appetite, and made a precipitate retreat.

This unexpected misfortune threw us into a temporary lethargy, from which we were ſhortly awakened by the entrance of the ſervant with a card, informing us, that Mr. and Mrs. Runabout and family, would do themſelves the pleaſure of drinking tea with us at ſix o'clock. Deſpair at length evidently appeared in our long dejected phiazes. We wiſhed ourſelves ten thouſand miles off, though it were in the deſarts of Arabia; but our wiſhes are as vain as our hopes. To cut ſhort my tale. The whole families of the Gapums and Runabouts, with Mrs. Spintext, were as good as their word. They all arrived. The room was occupied in every corner, in ſo much that the ſervant could ſcarcely open the door without overturning a chair, or knocking ſome unhappy wight on the head; nor could any one move but at the expence of a cruſh of his neighbour's toes. The converſation was various, but truly dull and inſipid. Fearing Mrs. Spintext would really ſleep with us, we put a wet pair of ſheets into our ſpare bed, and then conducted her up ſtairs to view her apartment, ſaying, at the ſame time, that it was extremely damp, having not been ſlept in ſince the death of our poor ſervant John. The good lady, to our great joy, declined the acceptance of ſuch a comfortable lodging, and ſoon after left us, together with the reſt of the party.

Thus, my dear Mr. Monk, do we ſuffer from the continual torrent of viſiters. O! could your wiſdom deviſe a plan to put a ſtop to it we ſhould ever feel ourſelves bound to pray for you. But to go a little further. The next morning, immediately after breakfaſt, being reſolutely determined not to undergo a ſimilar ſeries of misfortunes, we left the houſe to wander about the ſtreets, comparing ourſelves to nothing but forſaken orphans, driven from our houſe and home; long and tedious ſeemed the hours; we left not the dirtieſt lane in town unexplored. At length fatigued with the heat of the day, and covered with filth, we returned at two o'clock to our forſaken habitation, hoping to find a good dinner waiting our arrival; but looking unintentionally into the window, I beheld an innumerable party, ſeated all around the parlour, waiting with due patience and compoſure for our return. Mrs. Owl and myſelf reſolved not to enter, and therefore went ourſelves to pay a viſit to an intimate friend, where I have taken the opportunity of writing this melancholy epiſtle.—If therefore, my dear Job, your happy invention can form any temporary method of driving thoſe vermin from our doors, before the intended act is paſſed, you will obtain the well wiſhes of your brother in affliction,

OLIVER OWL.

Ivy-Street "——" Devonſhire.

A DESCRIPTION *of the* CHETA.

[Written by J. FLEMING, Eſq. of the Bengal Medical Eſtabliſhment.]

THE cheta is the animal mentioned by Tavernier, Bernier, and other eaſtern travellers, under the name of the hunting leopard. It differs, however, from the leopard properly ſo called, in the following particulars:

Firſt, in ſhape.—It is of a long make, narrow deep cheſt, and ſlender waiſt. Its legs alſo are very long in proportion to the body; in which particular, as well as in its general form, it bears a greater reſemblance to the greyhound than to its cogeners of the feline tribe.

2dly, The ſize of the cheta's head is ſmaller in proportion to its body than that of the leopard, or of moſt other quadrupeds. The colour of the iris is of a deeper yellow than in the leopard, and its face is diſtinguiſhed by a dark line reaching from the corner of the eye to that of the mouth on each ſide.

3dly, The hair on the throat, breaſt, belly, and the under ſide of the tail, is much longer than on the other parts of the body; it is of a duſky white colour, with few or no ſpots. The hair on the upper part of the neck, and on the ſhoulders, is alſo ſomewhat longer than on the body, though not ſufficiently ſo to entitle the cheta to the ſpecific name of Felis Zubata, which Linnæus has given it.

4thly, The ſpots on the cheta, inſtead of being diſpoſed in circles like thoſe of the leopard and panther, are each diſtinct. The body and limbs, excepting where the long hair extends, are thickly covered with theſe ſpots, varying in ſize, of a dark colour and round or oval ſhape, on a light tawny brown ground. The ears, which are ſhort and round, are each marked behind with a broad dark bar: and the tail, which is long, ſlender, and ſomewhat buſhy at the end, is marked with four ſuch bars from the tip upward.

5thly, The laſt and principal difference between the cheta and leopard is in reſpect to diſpoſition. The leopard is incapable of being tamed, and always retains its fierce malevolent habits. The cheta is eaſily broken in, and trained for the chaſe. I have never ſeen one, however, that could be ſaid to be thoroughly tamed. It ſtill retains ſome ſhare of its natural ferocity and treachery, which it betrays by its reſtleſſneſs, the obliquity of its movements, and the duplicity of its looks. It ſuffers no one to approach it familiarly but its keeper, and even he careſſes it with caution and diffidence. It muſt be led to the chaſe chained and hoodwinked; and all that can be expected from it, even when it has been carefully trained, is, that it ſhould return quietly to its keeper when the chaſe is over.

The ſize of a full grown cheta is as follows:—Length from the noſe to the tail 3 feet 8 inches; length of the tail 2 feet 3 inches; height at the ſhoulder 2 feet 4 inches; height at the rump 2 feet three inches.

Mr. Pennant's deſcription of the cheta (Hiſt of Quadr. vol. 1, p. 284) is tolerably correct; but his figure is a very bad one, and conveys a very erroneous idea of the ſhape of the animal.

The chetas preſented to his majeſty by the court of directors, were caught in the woods near Rydroog. They are about three years old [now about five], were trained at Seringapatam, and have been frequently hunted by Tippoo Sultaun.

Their daily food is ſix pounds of mutton, with as much water as they can drink. This allowance is ſometimes varied to three fowls. A maſſala, or mixture of ſpices, is given to them once a day with their food, and ſerves to keep them in health and ſpirits.

Each cheta has two keepers; and one cart, with two trained bullocks, was ſent at the ſame time as a ſpecimen of the carts uſed at Seringatam. The cart ſent to his majeſty was actually one of the Sultaun's, and has frequently been uſed by him; and the bullocks were alſo part of his hunting eſtabliſhment.

Meteorological Obſervations, applicable to Great Britain.

[From Capper's Obſervations on the Winds and Monſoons.]

THE tables in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, thoſe of Biſhop Watſon, Dr. Robertſon, and Major Hayman Rooke, all tend to prove, that the rainy ſeaſon of theſe iſlands commences in June, and continues for the two or three ſubſequent months; and that the greateſt quantity of rain falls almoſt invariably in the month of July. This is the fact: let us conſider what uſe may be derived from it by the farmer.

In the neighbourhood of London, from the great command of manure and the goodneſs of the roads, the farmer is able to bring forward his graſs, and to mow it ſometimes at the beginning of June, and always by the end of the month: thus he completely finiſhes his hay harveſt before the ſummer ſolſtice; the ſolſtitial rains therefore which follow, but ſeldom commence before this time, are extremely beneficial to him: they bring forward the aftermath, they ſwell the corn and increaſe the length of the ſtraw; and having finiſhed one harveſt, the farmer is completely prepared for the other. But it is within a very few years that agriculture was in ſuch an improved ſtate, even near the capital, as to admit of an early hay harveſt; and I am ſorry to ſay, that nine years in ten at leaſt, in the highly gifted county of Glamorgan, even at the preſent day the hay is regularly ſpoiled in

making.

making. But let not this circumſtance be conſidered as reflecting upon the farmers of that county, who are far from deficient either in induſtry or a competent knowledge of their buſineſs. Their county, poſſeſſing every poſſible natural advantage, has not, until lately, had any good turnpike roads; manure was to be had only in ſmall quantities: the little there was, became difficult and expenſive to put on the land, and conſequently they could not bring forward their graſs to be cut before the middle of July. The rains, therefore, ſo beneficial to the London farmer, were hurtful to them; but as it happened almoſt every year, they patiently ſubmitted to what they conſidered irremediable; for being ſituate near the ſea, they ſuppoſed it the natural conſequence of their climate and ſoil.

But turnpike roads being now made throughout the county, and ſafe, expeditious, and cheap conveyances being opened, by means of the canals, from the interior of the county to the ſea, and labourers of every deſcription reſorting in great numbers to the hills, where they are employed to work the mines of iron, lime, and coal, the produce of the county will in future be conſumed on the ſpot, and neceſſarily increaſe the quantity of manure. In the courſe of a few years then, the vallies at leaſt will come into a high ſtate of cultivation, and both the hay and corn harveſt in Glamorganſhire will be as early and productive as thoſe of any other county of Great Britain. The experienced farmer would not thank me for any remarks on the great advantages to be derived from having fodder of a ſuperior quality for his horſes, cattle, and ſheep.

As the ſolſtitial rains are always accompanied with weſterly and ſouth-weſterly winds, the mariner will readily comprehend that this ſeaſon is unfavourable for ſhips outward-bound to the Weſt Indies and America, and conſequently the reverſe for thoſe which are homeward-bound from thoſe countries.

It is uſual for Engliſh travellers to fix the middle of July for their ſummer excurſions, but they muſt conſtantly expect to be interrupted with heavy ſhowers of rain. To one claſs of them however this circumſtance may be conſidered as an advantage: it has lately been the faſhion to viſit Wales, and amid its wild romantic ſcenery, the waterfalls are in the height of their beauty at this ſeaſon.

The next meteorological general fact worthy of obſervation is, that frequent violent gales of wind happen ſoon after the autumnal equinox. Without dwelling much on the advantages of theſe high winds, which are known to ſtrip the trees of their leaves, and are ſaid to contribute greatly, by the agitation of them, to the fall of the ſap, I ſhall beg leave to obſerve, that the little ſummer of St. Martin, which follow theſe gales, and is probably the effect of them, continues from the beginning to the 22d of November. This interval of clear weather is particularly

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uſeful to the farmer and the gardener; to the former in ploughing and ſowing winter and ſummer fallows, to the latter in pruning and dreſſing his trees after the fall of the leaf, and when the return of the ſap is completed.

As to the winter, it is well known that little is to be done in the country at this time, except the carrying of manure; but it is important both to the farmer and gardener to remember, that the hard weather ſeldom begins before Chriſtmas, and in very ſevere winters a hard froſt is generally accompanied, in the early part of it, by a heavy fall of ſnow. Thus ſecured, the wheat and herbage of every kind is ſafe from external cold, for ſnow being a non-conductor of heat, the internal warmth of the earth, which at all ſeaſons is equal at leaſt to forty-eight degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, riſes, and is retained near the ſurface; and when the thaw takes place, vegetation, having been preſerved under this excellent covering of the ſheet of ſnow, is found to be in a very advanced and improved ſtate.

The mariner at this inclement ſeaſon will ſeldom go to ſea if he can avoid it; but voyages to the Weſt Indies may be undertaken in the winter, provided there is a good outſet from the Channel by the help of eaſterly or north-eaſterly winds. As the ſpring approaches, the eaſterly winds commence: the March winds and April ſhowers, ſays the honeſt countryman, bring forth May flowers; and it is ſuppoſed, that the motion of the trees at the vernal equinox contributes to raiſe the ſap and develope nature, which ſeems to have been in a ſtate of torpor or neceſſary repoſe during the winter. The prudent farmer avails himſelf of theſe winds alſo to ſow his oats, barley, peas, beans, potatoes, &c. The drying quality of theſe winds, on which I have already pretty fully expatiated, takes from the earth what would otherwiſe be a ſuperabundant degree of moiſture on the ſurface of it.

At this ſeaſon, likewiſe, the Britiſh mariner becomes particularly active. He may undertake his voyages to all countries ſituate to the ſouthward of theſe iſlands; and if bound to the Eaſt Indies in particular, he may perform the voyage almoſt to a certainty in leſs than four months. The N. E. winds being favourable for ſhips outward bound; therefore it would be prudent to poſtpone, if poſſible, entrance into the Channel to the end of May, or the beginning of June.

In ſhort, the ſpring is the moſt favourable ſeaſon for outward bound ſhips, and the ſummer for thoſe returning home. In the autumn the winds generally incline to the W. but rather toward the N. than the S. and in Winter they are often from the N. E. but the heavier gales of wind almoſt always come from the N. W.

After having pointed out to the farmer and gardener, the mariner and the traveller, the winds which prevail at different ſea-

ſons of the year, and which in examining ſeveral meteorological regiſters kept in Great Britain for upward of fifty years, I have found to be almoſt as periodical as thoſe in the tropics, I ſhall proceed to a farther application of this hypotheſis to domeſtic purpoſes.

It appears that in theſe iſlands the W. and S. W. winds prevails three-fourths of the year, and E. and N. E. only one-fourth. In all parts of Great Britain the S. W. is eſteemed the moſt rainy point of the compaſs.

In building houſes, granaries, or ſtorehouſes of any kind, therefore, in all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, great care ſhould be taken not to place buildings to the E. or N. E. of any lake or ſtanding pool of water, but particularly of marſhes or fens; and where a choice is permitted, it would perhaps be prudent to erect our habitations to the W. and S. W. of every river and canal: for, if ſituate to the eaſtward of them, according to this hypotheſis, the wind will blow upon the buildings three-fourths of the year, bringing with it the additional moiſture of the river or canal, and conſequently will render it damp and unwholeſome; whereas if placed weſtward of theſe ſources of moiſture, the air from the eaſtward, which is rather too dry, in paſſing over large bodies of water, will abſorb a certain quantity of the moiſture in ſolution in the atmoſphere, and the dampneſs of it of courſe will be by theſe means in ſome degree diminiſhed; but at all events, as the wind blows from the eaſtward three months of the year only, a houſe thus ſituate will be leſs damp than one placed to the weſtward, exactly in proportion to the difference of time each different wind blows, that is as three to nine; and for this reaſon every perſon ſhould recollect that the W. and S. W. ſides of a houſe are always the moſt damp.

It ſeems needleſs to expatiate on the neceſſity of applying theſe obſervations in particular to ſituations near marſhes or fens. The fatal conſequences of the exhalation from theſe places are very well known, and therefore I ſhall content myſelf with having pointed out to thoſe, who are unavoidably obliged to live near them, the moſt effectual means of partly avoiding their effects. If any perſons can for a moment entertain a doubt of their baneful influence, I muſt beg leave to refer them to the firſt book of the claſſical and elegant poem on Health by the learned and ingenious Dr. Armſtrong, whoſe ſalutary advice I ſhall not attempt to diſguiſe in the tame language of proſe; nor would I wiſh, by a partial quotation, to deprive the reader of the pleaſure of gratifying himſelf by a general reference to the original.

Although our atmoſphere in particular places is impregnated with noxious vapours, fortunately for the inhabitants of theſe iſlands they are not ſubject to the baneful influence of poiſonous winds; nor can they ſcarcely conſider themſelves expoſed to

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the ravages of hurricanes. The tempeſts, which ſometimes are known in our temperate climate, can ſcarcely be deemed more than ſtorms, eſpecially when compared with thoſe in the tropic.

Singular INSTANCES *of* INTEGRITY.

ASCLEPIODORUS went on a pilgrimage from the city of Athens into Syria, and viſited moſt cities as he went along. This he undertook, that he might obſerve the manners of men and their way of life. His journey being ended, he ſaid, "that in all his perambulation he had not met with more than three men, that lived with modeſty, and according to the rules of honeſty and juſtice." Theſe three were Ilapius, a philoſopher in Antioch; Mares of Laodicea, the moſt honeſt man of that age; and Domninus, the philoſopher; ſo that it ſhould ſeem Heraclitus had reaſon for his tears, who is ſaid to weep as oft as he came abroad, in conſideration of ſo many thouſands of evil livers as he beheld about him.—Cæl. Rhod. l. 14. c. 3. p. 631.

WHEN the ſenate of Rome was in a debate about the election of cenſor, and that Valerianus was in nomination, Trebellius Pollio writes, that the univerſal acclamation of the Senators was; "The life of Valerianus is a cenſorſhip, let him be the judge of us all, who is better than all of us: let him judge of the ſenate, who cannot be charged with any crime; let him paſs ſentence upon our life, againſt whom nothing is to be objected. Valerianus was almoſt a cenſor from his cradle; Valerianus is a cenſor in his whole life. A prudent ſenator, modeſt, grave, a friend to good men, an enemy to tyrants, an enemy to the vicious, but a greater unto voice. We receive this man for our cenſor; him we will imitate: he is the moſt noble amongſt us, the beſt in blood, of exemplary life, of excellent learning, of choice manners, and the example of antiquity." This was a glorious character of a man given by ſo honourable an aſſembly: and yet we ſee after what manner virtue is ſometimes afflicted in the world: this worthy perſon having attained to the empire, was unfortunately taken by Sapores, King of Perſia, and made his footſtool.—Trebell. Poll. Cæl. Rhod. l. 21. c. 11. p. 978. Pezel. Mellific. Hiſt. tom. 2. p. 229.

A REFLECTION.

A Free nation may ſurvive temporary thraldom; it may have a ſaviour: but a people enſlaved by their own venal, or daſtardly conduct, can only change from one oppreſſor to another.

On the CHANGES *in the* VALUE *of* MONEY.

MANY diſſertations have been written (ſays the Hon. D. Barrington) with regard to the value of money in the different reigns of the kings of England; I ſhall chooſe to fix this by ſome ſtatutes which ſhew, either expreſsly or by implication, this comparative value. By the ſtatute of Weſtminſter the firſt (3 Ed. I. cap. v.) no man is to be refuſed bail for larceny under twelve pence. Sir Henry Spelman hath obſerved on this part of the ſtatute, that when every thing elſe is growing dearer, a man's life is forfeited every day for what is of leſs and leſs value. Judges and juries indeed, from commendable motives of humanity, do not weigh the price of goods ſtolen in golden ſcales; but is there not a great impropriety in a jury's finding, on oath, that goods produced in court (which every one ſees are, perhaps, of twenty times the value) are only worth twelve pence? And may not this liberty, taken with their oath, make them and their audience leſs attentive to it upon more material points?

There is another ſtatute (13 Charles II. printed by Mr. Ruſſhead) which regulates the fees of Maſters in Chancery; the preamble to this act recites, that theſe offices were as ancient as the Conqueſt, and that four pence in that time was more than two ſhillings in the year 1661. It muſt be admitted, that theſe ſtatutes do not agree in their comparative value of money; but, at the ſame time, a medium between them may be the beſt direction to form a judgment upon.

[This reſpectable writer's obſervation relating to the fictitious value affixed to goods which felons have been convicted of ſtealing, deſerves attention, as that irregularity leſſens the ſolemnity of an oath, which is conſidered with too little ſerioufneſs in general, particularly on account of their being adminiſtered too often and on too trivial occaſions. Theſe are circumſtances unfavourable to the intereſts of morality.]

A QUESTION, *by W. Merriot, Land-Surveyor, St. Dye.*

A Few days ſince being employed to ſurvey a field, in the form of a geometrical ſquare, but, by reaſon of its being ſurrounded by a deep river, I could not eaſily obtain the length of its ſide; however, from a certain point, without this ſquare, to the next three contiguous angular points, in ſucceſſive order, meaſured 4, 3, and 6 chains reſpectively, the middle diſtance to the neareſt rectangular point being 3 chains, and 4 and 6 chains being the diſtances to the left and right hand angular points. I ſhall, therefore, eſteem it a ſingular favour if ſome mathematical correſpondent will determine the area in acres, &c. by a general rule that will anſwer all queſtions of a ſimilar nature.

Anſwer, by P. Gove, of Exeter, to W. Bickham's Charade, inſerted July 27.

HAREWOOD, Sir, you had in ſight,
When your charade you did write.

Anſwer, by E. Sherman, of Cornwood, to W. Harris's Rebus, inſerted Auguſt 24.

YOUR dwelling-place a hut is, plain I ſee;
Part of myſelf, the chin, the next muſt be;
One line I'll add to this, then I have done,
May Heaven preſerve brave GENERAL HUTCHINSON!

† Similar anſwers have been received from H. Humphreys, S. Murch, W. S. J. Squance, and E. Moon, of Exeter; Henry Gillard, of Southmolton; W. Jenkin, of Yeovil; Robert Maſſett, of Saltaſh; Serjeant Towning, of the Fivehead Volunteers; D. Hayes, of Briſtol; J. Whittle, of Upway; W. Francis, of Gwennap; W. Bickham, of Aſhburton; G. England, of Uplyme; William England, of Lyme; A. L. of Poole; F. Carter, jun. of Launceſton; George Coulman, of Broadhempſton; Valencourt, of Kenn; R. Sowden, of Brixham; E. Tapley, of Chard; and W. Pollard, jun. of Egloſhayle.

Anſwer, by Henricus, of Plymouth, to W. Chudleigh's Rebus, inſerted Auguſt 24.

BY treachery gain'd, of MALTA's iſle
France thought herſelf ſecure, but found
That Britain's arms would ſtill prevail,
And ſtrike their daring ſtandard down.

†*† We have received the like anſwer from J. Hancock, of Tilſhead; Egbert Moon, J. Squance, S. Murch, Philip Gove, W. Harris, and H. Humphreys, of Exeter; H. Gillard, of Southmolton; J. Whittle, of Upway; Valencourt, of Kenn; J. Tremlett, of Newton Buſhel; D. Hayes, of Briſtol; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; and A. L. of Poole.

A CHARADE, *by G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton.*

MY firſt is by the fowler us'd
The plumy train to ſlay;
My ſecond's on the ocean found,
Which you'll with eaſe diſplay.

Now the harmonious news of peace
Extends from pole to pole,
Now is the happy period come
To lay aſide my whole.

A REBUS, *by E. Penney, of Aſhburton.*

FIRST take a part, but not the heart,
Of you and me, and ſo on;
But not to teaze—then, if you pleaſe,
'Tis what we ſtand and go on.

To which add right, the preterite
Of what we do at table,
What 'tis I mean you'll then explain,
Ye knowing wits ſo able.

POETRY.

VERSES *on the* DEATH *of* CAPTAIN PARKER.

WHERE her proud cliff majeſtic Dover rears,
Whoſe white and guardian breaſt the ſurges lave,
Why ſweeps that ſound of death, and why appears
The troubled ſpirit of the neighb'ring wave?

Why does the voice of public ſorrow ſwell?
Why pours the gallant breaſt that manly ſigh?
Why does the tear of gen'rous anguiſh dwell
On Nelſon's cheek, and dim his ardent eye?

One ſimple word the mighty grief will ſpeak,
'Tis Parker's DEATH that breathes the gen'ral gloom,
That ſtrikes the living glow from beauty's cheek,
The flow'r of valour wither'd in its bloom.

The genius of the tempeſt raves no more,
With noiſeleſs courſe the mourning billows ſweep;
His cheriſh'd name is heard from ſhore to ſhore,
And horror broods upon the liſt'ning deep.

While on the couch of pain the ſuff'rer lay,
'Twas there the ſpirit of the hero ſhone,
Gave to his ſinking eyes a ſaint-like ray,
And mark'd his death with glory all its own.

Dear youth! from Britain's arms ſo early torn,
Tho' robb'd of life, that life was ſpar'd to ſhow
That from the ling'ring pang ſo greatly borne,
The Chriſtian's laurel with the hero's blow.

One proud diſtinction marks thy glorious grave,
That he from whom thine heart its ardour drew,
To thee affection's lateſt tribute gave,
And bade his gallant friends a fond adieu.

How fills my eye, how ſwells my heart to ſay—
Parker farewell! yet while the gen'rous flame
Of Britiſh virtue lives, ſhall Britain pay
The grateful tears that conſecrate thy name.

Dover. HARRIET WALKER.

An Addreſs, ſpoken by Mr. Wilmot Wells, the Manager of the Margate Theatre, on the Occaſion of the welcome Tidings of Peace.

FULL many an anxious year deſtructive war
Has whirl'd, in horrid pomp, his blood-ſtain'd car;
Urg'd on, impetuous, his reſiſtleſs way,
Scaring, with ruthleſs deeds, the face of day;
Embattled nations, thronging in his train,
Have heap'd his path with mountains of the ſlain;
Europe and Afric's plains have ſmok'd with gore,
The Weſtern Iſles, and Aſia's diſtant ſhore:
Still Britain proudly ſaw her flag unfurl'd
Triumphant—miſtreſs of the wat'ry world;

Yet

Yet e'en in conqueſt, oft her lab'ring breaſt
The deep-felt anguiſh of her ſoul confeſt;
Sad, as ſhe wail'd each hero's early doom,
Bathing with tears the laurel o'er his tomb.

But now, fell ſlaughter ſtops his murd'rous hand,
And happier proſpects greet th' expectant land;
'Midſt the wild uproar of oppoſing arms,
Humanity diſplays her milder charms;
Bids the fond wife ſuppreſs the ſtruggling ſigh,
Dries the big tear which dimm'd the mother's eye;
While, at her word, as rude diſſentions ceaſe,
Nation greets nation with the ſmile of peace;
So, when dark ſtorms deform the angry ſky,
With hideous glare the vivid lightnings fly;
Rending the concave vaſt from pole to pole,
In loud diſcordant craſh hoarſe thunders roll,
'Till the bright ſun leads back the glorious day,
And drives the horror of the ſtorm away.

O may th' event our fulleſt wiſhes crown!
May the tir'd world her ſacred influence own!
So may our grateful country's lateſt tear
Be that which fell on Parker's honour'd bier!

On CHANGE.

[From Mr. Fawcett's Poems.]

NOW while of human life—the fading grace
Calls the ſad dew down muſing pity's face;
Soon dries the eye which ſmiling reaſon guides
To HIM who o'er this ſhifting ſcene preſides,
Immortal King! from all mutation free!
Whoſe endleſs being ne'er began to be;
Who ne'er was nothing, who was ever all,
Whoſe kingdom did not riſe, and cannot fall,
On a myſterious throne high rais'd above,
E'en the fair change which heavenly orders prove!
While their bright excellence progreſſive grew,
He perfect now, ne'er imperfection knew!
Ere worlds began with boundleſs goodneſs bleſt,
Ne'er needing to be better—always beſt!

The penſive muſe, who thus a mournful ſigh
Hath paid to ſtars that fall, and flowers that die,
While the ſhort glories, brief as fair ſhe mourns,
To HIM the great endurer, joyful turns.
Glad ſhe adores, depreſs'd by gloomy wanes,
That undecreaſing light who all ordains;
On HIM ſhe leans, reliev'd from withering things,
And his immortal counſel raptur'd ſings:
That ſcheme of good, which all that dies ſurvives,
Whate'er decays for ever fair that thrives;
Whoſe progreſs adverſe fates and proſperous chance,
Virtue and vice, and good and ill advance:
Which draws new ſplendour from all mortal gloom,
Which all that fades but feeds with riper bloom;
Each human fall but props, each fall ſucceeds,
And all that fancy deems obſtruction ſpeeds.
In nature's beauteous frame, as cold and heat,
And moiſt and dry, and light and darkneſs meet:
Harmonious in the moral ſyſtem—join
Pleaſure and pain, and glory, and decline.